

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method, in a requested file system server, for servicing a request, comprising:

receiving a request for a referencing object from a client, wherein the referencing object refers to a referenced file system that has been moved to a location on a different server;

using information from said referencing object to look up a location of the referenced file system in a separate data structure; [[and]]

returning a redirection message indicating the location of the referenced file system to the client, wherein the redirection message comprises an address of a referenced file system server containing the referenced file system and wherein the referencing object has a file system identifier;

encoding the file system identifier, wherein the redirection message further comprises the encoded file system identifier and wherein the referencing object is a top level object for a uniform namespace comprising all file systems on participating file system servers;

receiving a redirected request for a file system object;

identifying an encoded file system identifier in the redirected request;

decoding the encoded file system identifier to form a file system identifier corresponding to a requested file system;

looking up a path for the requested file system in a file system identifier data structure; and

retrieving the root of the requested file system using the path for the requested file system.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the redirection message further comprises a path.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the referenced file system server comprises the requested file system server.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the separate data structure comprises a file system location database.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the file system identifier data structure comprises a file system identifier table.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the separate data structure and the file system identifier data structure are stored in a file system location database.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the referencing object is a top level object for a uniform namespace comprising all file systems on participating file system servers.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus, in a requested file system server, for servicing a request, comprising:

means for receiving a request for a referencing object from a client, wherein the referencing object refers to a referenced file system that has been moved to a location on a different server;

means for using information from said referencing object to look up a location of the referenced file system in a separate data structure; [[and]]

means for returning a redirection message indicating the location of the referenced file system to the client, wherein the redirection message comprises an address of a referenced file system server containing the referenced file system and wherein the referencing object comprises a file system identifier;

means for encoding the file system identifier, wherein the redirection message further comprises the encoded file system identifier and wherein the referencing object is a top level object for a uniform namespace comprising all file systems on participating file system servers;

means for receiving a redirected request for a file system object;

means for identifying an encoded file system identifier in the redirected request;

means for decoding the encoded file system identifier to form a file system identifier corresponding to a requested file system;

means for looking up a path for the requested file system in a file system identifier data structure; and

means for retrieving the root of the requested file system using the path for the requested file system.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the redirection message further comprises a path.

19-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[17]] 16, wherein the referenced file system server comprises the requested file system server.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the separate data structure comprises a file system location database.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[24]] 16, wherein the file system identifier data structure comprises a file system identifier table.

26. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[24]] 16, wherein the separate data structure and the file system identifier data structure are stored in a file system location database.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the referencing object is a top level object for a uniform namespace comprising all file systems on participating file system servers.

28-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for servicing a request, comprising:

instructions for receiving, in a first file system server, a request for a referencing object from a client, wherein the referencing object refers to a referenced file system that has been moved to a location on a different server;

instructions for using information from said referencing object to look up a location of the referenced file system in a separate data structure; and

instructions for returning a redirection message indicating the location of the referenced file system to the client, wherein the redirection message comprises an address of a referenced file system server containing the referenced file system and wherein the referencing object has a file system identifier;

instructions for encoding the file system identifier, wherein the redirection message further comprises the encoded file system identifier and wherein the referencing object is a top level object for a uniform namespace comprising all file systems on participating file system servers;

instructions for receiving a redirected request for a file system object;

instructions for identifying an encoded file system identifier in the redirected request;

instructions for decoding the encoded file system identifier to form a file system identifier corresponding to a requested file system;

instructions for looking up a path for the requested file system in a file system identifier data structure; and

instructions for retrieving the root of the requested file system using the path for the requested file system.

32. (Cancelled)